

## HIP-HOP BRINGS HOPE

*"Our kids need to hear the message you are bringing..." - Progreso High School Principal*



Refined Undignified is a hip hop dance troupe from Briercrest College, making waves and turning heads in the streets of the Yucatan.

This incredibly talented group of dancers served alongside us for almost three weeks in May.

The team performed 14 shows in public high schools, college campuses, a restaurant and some high-visibility locations, conducted dance workshops, and helped out with a variety of work projects.

Their mission is to reach a hurting generation by equipping followers of Jesus Christ to present relevant and powerful portrayals of the gospel through music and dance. Because the Yucatán suffers from the highest rate of teen suicide in all of Mexico, youth in this area of Mexico struggle with addictions and many end up joining local gangs. As one principal of a local high school commented, "Refined Undignified brought a message of hope to the local youth."

As one team member summed up: "It was incredible to see how openly the Mexican people received our ministry."

We are really looking forward to seeing this story continue as Refined Undignified is coming back in 2014!



## UPCOMING TRIPS

February 7–17, 2014 - Family Adventure Trip - **NOW OPEN**

October 4–13, 2014 - Mission Trip - **NOW OPEN**

November 7–17, 2014 - Aid Trip - **NOW OPEN**

**NOW BOOKING FOR 2014**

We have excellent availability and flexibility to suit your needs in 2014. Please contact us for specific dates.

## TRANSFORMED!

Often when we go on a missions experience it's easy to serve with the idea that "we are going to help," but we often forget the transforming work that Jesus does in our own lives as we serve. We are excited to see God at work in the lives of the Mexican people, and one of our goals is that people who come on a C-Quest trip would go home transformed. Check out some of the testimonies from former trip team members:

*"The people from Mexico have taught me true joy as well as gratitude. They show amazing amounts of respect to each other, to their land and history, and to outsiders. I have never found a second home so quickly; the people and culture have changed me forever."*

*"There is a lot I have learned from the people that we have had the privilege of encountering here in Mexico. To them, people are more important than time, money and material possessions. These people have set a huge example of what it means to love your neighbour."*

*"I'm taking a humble but inspired heart home from this tour. Humbled by the Lord revealing my selfishness; inspired by the wonderful Mexican people. It's great to see what God does internally when you serve outwardly, as I have had the honour of seeing in this team...."*



## MEET THE BURNS FAMILY



*The Burns Family serves with C-Quest in Progreso, Mexico*

**Tell us about your family.** We are an ordinary Calgary family. Back home Derek worked as an electrician, Julie worked in IT, and the kids went to a Spanish bilingual school. We enjoy spending time as a family, playing games, working on projects, swimming and exploring. Emily and Troy go to a local school in Progreso. Working in the heat takes some adjustment as does learning to communicate in a new language. We attend a local church and watch sermons from Centre Street Church, our partner church from Calgary, online.

### **Why did you decide to move to Mexico to serve with C-Quest?**

When I was a little girl I prayed every night for years, "God, please don't make me a missionary, anything else, but not that." Now I know God was preparing my heart, even then. We feel God used so many moments to lead us to Mexico. In 2010, we went on a short-term mission trip to Tepic, Mexico. When we got home we felt that things had to change in our lives. We needed to downsize, simplify and build community.

**What has been the best thing about being in Mexico?** The weather and the beach are amazing! It's also great to spend more time with our kids as they are done school at 1:00. Our joy however comes in seeing God's people work to share His love in this community. We love seeing the changes in people as they come down for missions for the first time. We also find joy in the support we've received from friends, family and people we hardly know.

**What's the weirdest thing you've eaten?** That would have to be tamarind. It's kind of a legume but they make popsicles and candies out of it. Next up is guanabana, which is a fruit that is ripening on our counter right now. We hear it's delicious.

**What has God been teaching you lately?** Patience. Living in Mexico requires patience with our expectations. We need to be patient with ourselves as we learn, as we try new things, and as we try to accomplish projects. We have to keep trying and get back up when we fall down.

*"We feel called to help those in need in Mexico; at the same time our lives are being transformed."*



## FIESTA FUNDRAISER 2013

Our first **Fiesta Fundraiser**, held in June, was a great success, despite the difficult circumstances Calgarians were facing due to the devastating flood (or due to flooding). Nearly 50 people attended; many of them brought food, clothing, and bedding to help with the flood relief.

Guests had a chance to mix and mingle with C-Quest staff and recent trip participants. Also, Allyson Link gave a short recount of her emotionally moving experience on a recent short term mission trip with her daughter Megan. Over \$21,000 was raised in support of C-Quest's HomeQuest, HealthQuest and HopeQuest programs.



Thank you to everyone who came out to our **Fiesta Zapatos** fundraiser in September. This women's networking event was held at John Fluevog Shoes in downtown Calgary and featured live jazz, delicious Mexican taquitos from La Vida Loca and a great evening of shoe shopping for 80 women with big hearts.

Fluevog Shoes generously donated half of all shoe sales for the evening to C-Quest. Our supporters not only purchased funky new shoes but, at the same time, helped C-Quest to raise much needed funds to provide critical aid to families in Mexico.

Additionally, over 120 pairs of shoes were donated to the Walk in Closet – a project by the Making Changes Foundation. Thanks to our supporters, many local women in Calgary will have a great selection of shoes to boost their image and confidence as they enter the professional workforce.

Over \$10,000 was raised for mission projects to help us restore hope and transform lives in the Yucatán.

## DELOITTE IMPACT DAY

On October 4, C-Quest participated in Deloitte Canada's 9th Annual Impact Day. Deloitte encourages its employees to participate in activities which promote community spirit and help those in need. C-Quest was honoured to be chosen as one of only a few select projects by Calgary Deloitte employees. C-Quest's designed an innovative workshop called "Fundraiser in a Day" with the goal to raise funds and awareness for the relief efforts in Mexico for those living in poverty. The winning fundraiser was **Be Mayan Valentine**. To buy tickets for this event and help spread the word, please visit our website and see how C-Quest is making a difference in downtown Calgary's business community.



Join us on a Mayan themed, culinary chocolate adventure. The evening will feature fantastic food, created by La Vida Loca—the hottest new Mexican restaurant in Calgary—entertainment, and great prizes.

**Tuesday, February 11th, 2014, 7pm to 11:30pm**  
**Location: 1129 17th Ave S.W., Calgary, AB**  
**Tickets \$55/person**

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



*I've seen three rockets take off in my life...*

The first was many years ago when I made a model rocket with a grade six class I was teaching. When "Launch Day" had finally arrived, we all headed out to a nearby field to witness the rewards of our hard work and see our creations come to life. Imagine my disappointment when my rocket, my "baby", launched beautifully, soared into the wild blue yonder, and I never saw it again!

The second was in 2003 when I took my family to Disney World and we got to watch the Space Shuttle for several minutes as it soared into space.

The third was just over two years ago when God called us to launch a ministry called C-Quest. We took a huge leap of faith and followed God's calling.

Little did we know that God was going to bring us an amazing team to help us get C-Quest off the ground. From staff members to partner churches and ministries, God has provided the support and encouragement to see C-Quest take off beyond our wildest expectations in only two short years.

Our first program, short-term missions, is moving ahead at full speed. We have had the privilege of hosting several teams so far and as we look forward to 2014, we already have a full schedule with 10-11 teams either confirmed or in process! Our goal was six teams. Praise God!

We thank you for your prayers and financial support because we know that without you we could not do what we have undoubtedly been called to do. We hope you can join us sometime in Mexico for a mission trip, as staff, or just to get a closer look at what we do.

**Gary Edwards**  
Executive Director

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your own personal life transformation could be just one decision away. It's a simple fact. Givers gain. The impact of a C-Quest trip is hard to measure, but easy to see. Contact us to help you experience a trip of a lifetime. You will be impacting not only others' lives, but your own as well.

Drop us an email at [info@c-quest.net](mailto:info@c-quest.net) or visit our website at [www.c-quest.net](http://www.c-quest.net). We rely on the generosity of donors like you to continue to run quality programs that truly restore hope and transform lives.

Donations and trip expenses are tax receiptable. To make a donation, visit our Support Us page at [www.c-quest.net](http://www.c-quest.net) or send a gift to:

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